

Vignettes of Army Life—

THE G. I. HAIRCUT

By Pvt. R. C. Johnson

The famed and widely-publicized "sugar bowl" haircut adopted by the Army, is the bane of the rookie's first few weeks in camp—when the time inevitably comes for him to part company with his long and curly, sleek-with-aromatic-goo, and glamorous locks. The psychological pain is more deadly than the physical pain caused by a dentist's drill in a bad tooth—but it must be endured. (Ed. Note: Rule 17B5 — "The soldier's hair must be kept short and neat.")

So, with dreaded anticipation, Joe Rookie musters his courage and drags his reluctant feet into the G.I. barber shop on the post. He pauses before he enters, and tenderly smooths his fingers over his curly mane, and soberly reflects how "cute" his Daisybelle thought he looked. But, brother, it's no use. Daisybelle must relax and silently wait for the day when your hair may grow again—after the duration. He enters. The barber smiles warmly; Joe leers.

"I take it you want a regular haircut?" asks the barber, knowing full well all the while exactly what Joe came in for.

Timidly and weak in voice, Joe

mutters, "Yes—but NOT TOO SHORT!"

"O. K., son, just sit here." Joe sits. What an ordeal. To Joe the buzz of the electric clippers is the drone of a dive bomber—and he knows the results will be as devastating. Just grin and bear it, Joe. Your hair will keep on growing.

Then it's over. Too late now. Cautiously and with fear Joe approaches the mirror. "Gad, I'm RUINED!" he yells. "What will Daisybelle ever say if she sees me like this?" But it's too late now, Joe. We told you that before.

With hope for revenge, some day, Joe pays the barber and hurries away—right smack into Pete and Jim, his buddies — at least he thought they were his buddies.

"Why didn't ya give the barber an extra dime and let him use the bowl with the fancy edges," Joe hears them say in unison. Joe burns. Pete and Jim howl.

And so Joe retreats to his bunk, and makes the supreme effort to make himself invisible—mentally, if not physically.

Buck up, Joe. Your hair will grow again, in a couple of weeks. Then you can get ANOTHER haircut. And another bowl, maybe.

bed too. A train whistle screams a distant banshee wail—that train might be going home.

MOIDER IN NEW JOISEY

Toity poiple boids a-sitting on a coib

A-choiping and a-boiping and a-eating doity woims.

Along came Boit and a skoit named Goit

Who woiked in a shoit factory over in Joisey

When Boit and the skoit Goit

Saw the toity poipie boids a-sitting on the coib,

A-choiping and a-boiping an a-eating doity woims,

Boy, was they poitoibed.

BED CHECK — Done to be sure no soldier has smuggled a blonde into the barracks. (If a blonde is found she is to be confiscated by the first sergeant).

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Tent City Soldier Reproduces Evening Routine Under Canvass

Towards nine o'clock of a cool Oregon evening the sallow light of the fading day shows signs of leaving tent city altogether. The DEML's, those sturdy packhorses of a camp a'building, are preparing to saw wood in preparation for next day's wood detail. Somewhere a melancholy guitar strums—and someone brushes an accompaniment on his teeth. A mixture of voices rises to the sky where once only the crickets' chirp disturbed a sleeping farm field. Western voices, that somehow combine a slur and abruptness of speech at the same time (they all sound like hayseed farmers, says the New Yorker) — Eastern voices, with the indefin-

able rasp of the city pavements (sounds like them Dead End Kids in the movies, says the Westerner).

"It's your turn to fill that water bucket." "When this war is over I'm goin' back to the farm and lie on my — for six whole months!" "Hey, yardbird, ya know you got KP tomorrow?" "My — pay-check all asked for before I even get it!" "It sounds sorta silly, don't it, but we made an agreement. Every night at eight I get out her picture and look at it and she does the same back there." "Me that's never done nothing but tickle the keys in a night club—pushing those crates!" "Wonder what they're doin' home right now — wish I could see."

The voices die down. The moon comes up slowly, like a stage prop, tremendous and jaundice yellow. At home the families are going to

Your Job

"Wherever you're working—in office or shop,
And however far you may be from the top—
And though you may think you're just treading the mill,
Don't ever belittle the job that you fill;
For, however little the job may appear,
You're just as important as some little gear
That meshes with others in some big machine,
That helps keep it going—though never is seen.
They could do without you—we'll have to admit—
But business keeps on, when the big fellows quit!
And always remember, my lad, if you can,
The job's more important—(oh, yes)—than the man!
So if it's your hope to stay off the shelf,
Think more of your job than you do of yourself.
Your job is important—don't think it is not—
So try hard to give it the best that you've got!
And don't ever think you're of little account—
Remember, you're part of the total amount.
If they didn't need you, you wouldn't be there—
So, always, my lad, keep your chin in the air.
A digger of ditches, mechanic, or clerk—
Think well of your company, yourself, and your work!"

—The Tax Dodger, Albany.

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